

AN INTERESTING MANUSCRIPT.

BY L. O. HOWARD.

At a meeting of the Biological Society of Washington, held March 10, 1917, Dr. Hugh M. Smith, chief of the United States Bureau of Fisheries, exhibited a packet of 283 loose sheets, each sixteen and five-tenths centimeters by ten centimeters, backed by pasteboard covers and labeled in manuscript, "Olivier's North American Coleoptera, 283 plates." Below this legend is dimly written in pencil by a different hand, "Painted by Mrs. C. L. H.—, wife of Professor C. L. Hentz, bgt. November 2, 185—." Dr. Smith, after exhibiting the packet, presented it to the writer, calling attention to a newspaper clipping which he had found under the cover from the *Boston Transcript* of November 21, 1856, giving a notice of the death of Prof. N. M. Hentz at the residence of his son, Dr. Charles A. Hentz, at Mariana, Fla., on the fifth instant (*i. e.*, November, 1856), followed by a brief obituary notice. Dr. Smith further stated that this packet had been bought by his father at a book sale very many years ago.

On careful examination it seems obvious that this collection of loose leaves constitutes a selection of all the North American species of Coleoptera from the six volumes of A. G. Olivier's "Entomologie, ou Histoire Naturelle des Insectes Coleopteres." Obtaining access to a copy of Olivier's great work, Prof. Nicholas Marcellus Hentz had evidently asked his talented wife, Caroline Lee Hentz, to copy the colored illustrations and descriptions of all of the species described from North America. Or possibly he did the drawing and she copied the descriptions.

Hentz, before his marriage, had lived at Boston and Philadelphia, moving south shortly after marriage in 1824. Olivier's work may have been loaned to him from Philadelphia or from Boston, as he was frequently in correspondence with T. W. Harris.

In the correspondence, as published in "The Entomological Correspondence of Thaddeus William Harris, M. D.," printed by the Boston Society of Natural History, in 1896, there is no reference to the loan of Olivier, but the last letter published was Harris to Hentz, November 6, 1839, and the manuscript copy was probably made later than that date.

On comparison of these loose leaves with the copy of Oliver in the Library of the Bureau of Entomology the Hentz illustrations prove to be very faithful copies, a little lighter in color as a rule, but with the added effort in some cases of indicating high lights on dark species, which improved their general appearance as compared with the copy of the printed work in Washington. In a few cases the colors are not completely worked in.

In the copies of the descriptions useless words are omitted. For example, should the original read, "Les antennes sont noires," Mrs. Hentz would simply write "Antennes noires." But no useful descriptive word is omitted. The enormous amount of copying that Harris, Fitch and other early entomologists had to do in the absence of funds for the purchase of rare works is a matter of frequent record. It is doubtful, however, if there exists a more perfect and useful manuscript than the one just described. It will be extremely useful, even today, since it brings together in compact form only the North American species described and figured by Olivier. It will be deposited either in the Library of the United States National Museum or in that of the Bureau of Entomology, where it may be consulted.

THE NORTH AMERICAN SPECIES OF *PACHYNEUR ON* WITH THREE NEW SPECIES (CHALCID-FLIES).

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Based on the types (except *albutius*). Females.

I. Legs yellow except the coxæ (compare *anthomyiæ*).

Scapeblackish. (Is a *Dibrachys*.)

nigrocyanicum Norton

Scape yellow. As in *anthomyiæ* (of which it is a probable variant). Median carina of propodeum sometimes single (the abdominal petiole not strongly striate). (= *syrphi* Ashmead) (= *syrphicola* Ashmead.) *albutius* Walker

II. Legs with at least the coxæ and femora concolorous or the latter darkened. Spiracular sulcus narrow, distinct, no